

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Arthur Moore on October 13, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please replace the following claim:

9. (Currently Amended) A method for processing transactions at a hub for electronic supply chain management, said method including steps of:
- receiving messages from at least one client device at a software module of a local hub, said local hub being one of a plurality of local hubs remotely coupled to each other via a communication network, said software module executable by a processing device, said local hub coupled to a database of information regarding supply chain management;
 - parsing each of said messages and determining whether each message requires access to and processing of information stored in said database;
 - separating each of said messages into a first type of message or a second type of message, wherein said first type of message requires access to and processing of information stored in said database, and said second type of message does not require access to and processing of information stored in said database;
 - sending said first type of message to a heavyweight server, wherein said heavyweight server accesses information stored in said database,

processes said first type of message and said information stored in said database, and transmits data resulting from the processing of said first type of message and said information stored in said database;
sending said second type of message to a lightweight server, wherein said second type of message is transmitted from said lightweight server without accessing and processing information stored in said database;
parsing said database into data portions for which said local hub has write access authorization, and data portions for which said local hub does not have write access authorization; ~~and~~
for each said first type of message, determining whether said first type of message requires writing to said database, and permitting writing only to said data portions of said database for which said local hub has write access authorization; and
performing a business transaction by said local hub by said writing to said data portions of said database for which said local hub has write access authorization.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lalita M. Hamilton whose telephone number is (571) 272-6743. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Thursday (6:30-2:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kalinowski Alexander can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lalita M Hamilton/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3691